131 length and a mile wide. "Howar" means "Young Camel" and the island was so called because it is similar in shape though smaller than Bahrain, and so was described as its offspring.

There are many other little islands in the Bahrain archipelago ; some contain small villages or fishermen's huts while others are deserted except during the occasional visits of migratory birds or pearl divers who come to the islands during the diving season to draw water from the freshwater springs.

311 Along the northern coast of Bahrain there is a narrow strip of land some three miles wide which is under cultivation. The fertile gardens
137 containing date and loz (Indian almond or Terminalia) pomegranate, banana and fig trees are irrigated from many natural springs and artesian wells. But in the waterless areas south of the cultivation, in the centre of the island, only sparse and hardy desert flora exists. Although this desert may seem bare to the eyes of a visitor accustomed to the lush greenness of Europe or the States, it is in fact covered with a great variety of desert plants which were found, in a recent survey, to include some 200 species.

133 Beyond the cultivated area the land is barren and the landscape consists of low rolling hills with numerous rocky cliffs and dry wadis. Most of the Islands of Bahrain are surfaced with hard limestone rock, covered in many places with sand dunes, and, in the case of the main island, with pre-historic tumuli. From the shore line the topography rises gradually towards the centre where it again drops off into a basin surrounded by steep cliffs. Towards the centre of the basin there is a very pronounced rocky promontory known as "Jebal ad-Dukhan," the "Mountain of Smoke," a name given to it because of the vague and hazy appearance it often presents, particularly during the hot summer months. The Jebal is only 450 feet above sea level and 250 feet above the surrounding plain but often, when mist surrounds its base, it gives the impression of being a considerable mountain.

Although Bahrain is a small country yet it displays a very varied
226 landscape and many surprising contrasts between old and new. It
228 is primarily a sea faring state. The brilliant blue and green waters, studded with white sails, which surround the islands provide the people of Bahrain with fish, which they catch from boats and in traps, fresh water, from the submarine springs, coral stone for building and pearls which made Bahrain such an important trading centre in the past.
361 The coastal towns have an attractive appearance. Manama's water front is lined with high white houses and beyond the town date gardens extend in an unbroken line down to the water's edge. Roads in the northern part of Bahrain pass through avenues of tall and stately date palms, bearing great bunches of golden, red and yellow fruit during
133 the summer months. The south of the island is a miniature desert and in the foothills around the Jebal there are many little wadis which
000 after the rainy season are bright with desert flowers and shrubs. Even

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Speaking generally most of the hardy annuals can be grown without much difficulty, some perennials succeed but as they invariably die in the summer only those which flower in the first year should be attempted. Seeds are apt to behave capriciously in Bahrain; one year a certain species will grow well, producing masses of flowers, next year the same seed, sown under identical conditions, will fail to germinate or will grow a few inches and then wither away. The following annuals are the most reliable and most easily grown from seed : Ageratum, Allysum, Annual Chrysanthemums, Balsam, Calendula, Coreopsis, Gillardia, Hollyhock, Linum, Marigold, Nasturtiums, Nicotiana, Sunflower, Stocks, Sweet Sultans, Virginia Stock, Wallflower (annual).

Bulbs do fairly well the first year but if left in the ground they perish and if lifted and stored they are apt to rot. The following have been grown with some success : Anemone, Dahlias, Cannas, Gladiolus, Iris, Jonquils, Ranunculus, Tuberous, various lilies including Spider Lilies, Amaryllis and Arum.

The following annuals can be grown, often successfully, but they require care and mature soil : Anchusa, Antirrhinum, Carnations (which sometimes survive the summer), Cornflower, Cosmos, Coleus, Candytuft, Cineraria, Dahlia, Dianthus, Gypsophila, Kochia, Larkspur, Mignonette, Petunia, Phlox, Pansy, Statice, Salvia, Verbena, Zinnia. Certain species, when once established, will seed themselves every year to such an extent that they become a nuisance, these include Larkspur, Petunia, Ageratum, Nicotiana, Coreopsis, Sunflowers and Hollyhocks. The method of planting seeds in pots or boxes is rarely successful in Bahrain, owing to the salt in the ground and in the water the insides of boxes and pots are liable to become coated with salt which eventually kills the seedlings; in the open ground better results are obtained. Seeds can be sown from the beginning of October until as late as January. Local gardeners take little interest in flowers and are not accustomed to deal with flower seeds, so to get good results it is almost essential to sow the seeds and transplant seedlings oneself. Seed beds should be watered from a can during the first few days, locally made watering cans can be obtained in the bazaar. The rush of water which gardeners release over newly sown seeds usually carries away most of the seeds the first time that the seed bed is irrigated.

There are few if any indigenous flowers in Bahrain. Flower gardens did not exist before the development of artesian wells and certain plants, shrubs and trees which now appear to be growing wild were introduced from India or from Iraq during the last 27 years ; under this heading come Gaillardias, Oleanders, the Mesquite bean tree and many others. Almost all the flowering shrubs, trees and creepers were originally brought from the Municipal gardens in Karachi; these include Hibiscus, Tecoma, Duranta, Bougainvillea, Buddleia, Jatroba, Frangipani, Antigonon, Cassia, Lantana, Crotons, Achania, Indian Lilac, Datura, Myrtle, Ponciana (several types), Asparagus, Anchania, Bauhinia, Millingtonia, Cordia.

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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Several types of local grass, if cultivated, can be used for lawns. The best method of planting a lawn is by "dubbing in" small clumps of grass about six inches apart from each other. In two or three months the grass will cover the ground. It requires liberal watering especially during the summer, in the winter time it lies dormant. After three or four years lawns are apt to become thin and patchy, the grass should then be dug up and a new lawn laid down. The best kind of grass for lawns is "Nejma" which means a star, so called owing to the star shaped seed pod which it produces and "Murani," both can be obtained easily from any cultivated ground.

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Most European vegetables can be grown in Bahrain and if planted in October quite a small garden should provide vegetables for a household from December until the beginning of June. Gardeners, if left to their own devices, are apt to use old seed which they have collected from previous crops; this almost always results in failure. The following are the most easily grown vegetables, Beetroot, Cabbage, family Carrot, Celery, Leek, Lettuce, Onion, Parsley, Radish, Spinach, Turnip. Peas and Beans do not seem to thrive in Bahrain. Tomatoes are grown extensively in the country and can be bought cheaply in the bazaar, so unless one has plenty of space it is hardly worth cultivating them. They ripen in Bahrain before they ripen in Iraq and at the beginning of the season they are exported from Bahrain to Basra.

Asparagus, Artichoke (Jerusalem) and Brussel sprouts have been grown from seed with rather uncertain results. Sweet Basil (Mashmoom) and Dill are herbs which are found in almost every garden, Mint grows well and retains its perennial habit but most of the other English herbs are not successful.

In the summer only local and somewhat uninspiring vegetables are obtainable, the best of these are Aubergine, Cucumber, Ladies Fingers, Pumpkin, Marrow and Sweet Potatoes.

One of the problems in Bahrain is how to obtain sufficient fertiliser. Before so many people took an interest in gardening cow manure could be obtained by anyone who sent a cart to remove it from the owner's shed. Today it is a marketable commodity and has to be paid for.

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In spite of all difficulties gardening in Bahrain is a popular hobby, not only among the Europeans but also among the Arabs.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

AIR FARES

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THE following air lines make scheduled stops at Bahrain :—

British Overseas Airways Ltd.	Cyprus Airways,
Gulf Aviation Ltd.,	Iraki Airways,
Djibouti Airways,	Middle East Airways,
	T.A.I.